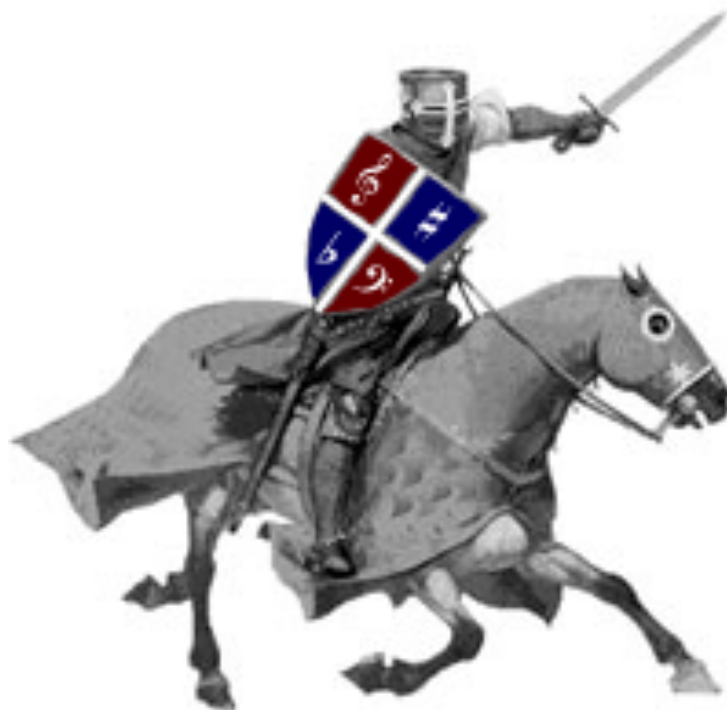


T.A. HOWARD MIDDLE SCHOOL



**BAND**  
**HANDBOOK**  
**2011-2012**

Nathaniel Neugent, Director  
Meredith DeMaagd, Associate Director  
(817) 299-3526

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to the T.A. Howard Middle School Band! Your directors, Mr. Neugent and Ms. DeMaagd, are very excited that we are a part of such a great band family, school, and community. We hope your summer was fun and relaxing and that you are as excited as we are for school to begin!

In the following pages you should find answers to any and all questions you may have about our band program. Please read this document carefully as we have made a few changes to the handbook's content and layout.

If you have any questions regarding your child, please do not hesitate to call or email us.

Sincerely,



**Nathaniel Neugent**  
Director of Bands

**Meredith DeMaagd**  
Associate Director of Bands

**Nathaniel Neugent** is beginning his fifth year as Director of Bands at Howard MS and his fifteenth year of band directing. Under his direction, the T.A. Howard Middle School Honor Band placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the CCC State Honor Band contest in 2011 and 5<sup>th</sup> place in 2009 and 2008. These past two two years the Howard Band program had all three bands receive a Sweepstakes award ratings at UIL contest. Mr. Neugent was previously the Director of Bands at Creekview High School in Carrollton, Texas, where he taught for eight years. He is a graduate of the University of North Texas and Trinity High School, where he was Drum Major for both band programs. He was fortunate to have been a member of his father's own band program during high school. He is active in the Texas band community as a leadership clinician and drill writer. He received his Bachelor of Music from the University of North Texas in Denton.

**Meredith DeMaagd** is beginning her fifth year as Associate Director of Bands at Howard MS and also her fifth year of band directing. Under her direction, the Howard Symphonic Band has received a First Division rating in both UIL Concert and Sightreading from 2008 to 2011. She received her Bachelor of Music in Education from Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan. Prior to her time as a Spartan, Ms. DeMaagd lived in the Houston area and graduated from The Woodlands High School. She has served as the President of both The Woodlands Highlander Band and the Michigan State University Spartan Marching Band. She is currently working on her Master of Music Education from the University of North Texas.

...for more detailed bios, check out our website at [www.howardband.com](http://www.howardband.com)

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# OVERVIEW OF ENSEMBLES

All T.A. Howard Bands are ability based. Students are placed in ensembles based on a comprehensive audition that took place last spring. The ensembles are as follows: Honor Band, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band. Percussion Class students are members of the three performing ensembles, but they meet in a separate class as well.

## ***Honor Band***

The Honor Band is Howard Middle School's premier performing ensemble and is composed mostly of 8<sup>th</sup> graders. They officially represent the school and perform throughout the year. The Honor Band sets the standard in musicianship, integrity and professionalism at T.A. Howard Middle School.

Honor Band students are expected to practice the required amount to maintain growth as a musician and uphold the integrity and standard of this ensemble. As this ensemble represents Howard in many extracurricular activities, it is required by our state's "No Pass/No Play" law that each student maintain a 70 or higher in all classes (Pre-AP classes must be a 60 or higher). Members in the Honor Band are expected to enroll in private lessons and are required to attend section rehearsals, audition for the All-District and All-Region Band, perform at Solo & Ensemble Contest and be good leaders in general. This allows us the amount of time and repetition necessary to compete with other ensembles statewide that have band every day.

Attendance at all band events, as well as any scheduled concert or contest is strictly required for membership in this ensemble. It is a privilege, not a right, to be in this ensemble. Therefore, if a student is unable to fulfill attendance, academic, and conduct obligations, the band director, parents and counselor will evaluate the situation and reassignment to a band with less demanding curricular and extracurricular obligations may result.

## ***Symphonic Band***

The Symphonic Band is Howard Middle School's second performing ensemble. They officially represent the school and perform throughout the year. The Symphonic Band is composed of approximately half 8<sup>th</sup> graders and half 7<sup>th</sup> graders.

Symphonic Band students are also expected to practice the required amount to maintain growth as a musician and uphold the integrity and standard of this ensemble. As this ensemble represents Howard in many extracurricular activities, it is required by our state's "No Pass/No Play" law that each student maintain a 70 or higher in all classes (Pre-AP classes must be a 60 or higher). Symphonic Band students are expected to take private lessons, attend section and full band rehearsals during the spring semester for UIL music, perform at Solo & Ensemble Contest and follow the standard set by the Honor Band. 8<sup>th</sup> graders in Symphonic Band are required to audition for the All-District Band and attend the requisite sectionals in the fall. 7<sup>th</sup> graders in Symphonic band are encouraged on a student-by-student basis whether to audition for All-District and attend sectionals in the fall.

Attendance at all band events, as well as any scheduled concert or contest is strictly required for membership in this ensemble. It is a privilege, not a right, to be in this ensemble. Therefore, if a student is unable to fulfill attendance, academic, and conduct obligations, the band director, parents and counselor will evaluate the

situation and reassignment to a band with less demanding curricular and extracurricular obligations may result.

### **Concert Band**

The Concert Band is Howard Middle School’s third performing ensemble. They meet in three different classes: Concert Band Woodwinds, Concert Band Brass, and Percussion Class (who can also take Concert WW class if space is available). They officially represent the school and perform throughout the year. The Concert Band is composed mostly of 7<sup>th</sup> graders.

Concert Band students are expected to practice the required amount to maintain growth as a musician and uphold the integrity and standard of each ensemble. As these ensembles represent Howard in many extracurricular activities, it is required by our state’s “No Pass/No Play” law that each student maintain a 70 or higher in all classes (Pre-AP classes must be a 60 or higher).

The students in this group are expected to perform at Solo & Ensemble Contest in the spring semester. They are also encouraged but not required to attend section rehearsals during the fall if they aspire to audition for All-District or All-Region Band. Prior to each concert, these 3 classes will meet several times to rehearse the Woodwinds, Brass, and Percussion together. Most importantly, they are encouraged to take private lessons and follow the standard set by the Honor Band and Symphonic Band.

Attendance at all band events mentioned above, as well as any scheduled concert or contest is strictly required for membership in this ensemble. Know that it is a privilege, not a right, to be in this ensemble. Therefore, if a student is unable to fulfill attendance at performances, academic and conduct obligations, the band director, parents and counselor will evaluate the situation and reassignment to another elective with less demanding curricular and extracurricular obligations may result.

## **BAND CLASS SCHEDULE (NEW!)**

### **Monday, Tuesday, & Friday**

7:15 – 8:15	Sectionals
8:15 – 8:37	open Advisory
8:45 – 9:30	<b>1</b> Music Appreciation
9:35 – 10:20	<b>2</b> Symphonic Band
10:25 – 11:15	<b>3</b> Concert Band Brass
11:20 – 12:40	<b>4</b> Percussion+ <b>D Lunch</b>
12:45 – 1:30	<b>5</b> Music Appreciation
1:35 – 2:20	<b>6</b> Honor Band
2:25 – 3:10	<b>7</b> Concert Band WW
3:15 – 4:00	<b>8</b> Conference
4:10 – 5:10	Sectionals

### **Wednesday**

7:15 – 8:15	Sectionals
8:45 – 10:15	<b>2</b> Symphonic Band
10:20 – 10:45	Advisory
10:50 – 12:20	<b>4</b> Percussion
12:20 – 12:50	<b>D Lunch</b>
12:55 – 2:25	<b>6</b> Honor Band
2:30 – 4:00	<b>8</b> Conference
4:10 – 5:10	Sectionals

### **Thursday**

7:15 – 8:15	Sectionals
8:45 – 10:15	<b>1</b> Music Appreciation
10:20 – 10:45	Advisory
10:50 – 12:20	<b>3</b> Concert Band Brass
12:20 – 12:50	<b>D Lunch</b>
12:55 – 2:25	<b>5</b> Music Appreciation
2:30 – 4:00	<b>7</b> Concert Band WW
<b>4:10 – 5:10</b>	<b>Sectionals</b>

# GRADING POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

Every six weeks, grades will be determined based on your performance, rehearsal, and practice. The following sections will clearly outline what we expect and how students will be graded in each of the following areas:

- I. PERFORMANCE – 40%
- II. REHEARSAL – 40%
- III. PRACTICE – 20%
- IV. EXTRA CREDIT

## I. Performance (40%)

### **PERFORMANCE GRADES**

The average of performance grades count as 40% of the six weeks average. Items included in the Performance Grade are:

- Playing Tests (this includes Chair Tests and Passoffs)
- Written Work
- Public Performances (Concerts or contests, both group and individual)
  - These count in your average twice. If you do not attend a performance and do not have an approved excused absence, two zeroes will be entered into the gradebook. There is no feasible way to duplicate and therefore “make up” a missed performance.

### **PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS**

- A. **Playing Tests:** Students should expect weekly playing tests that will be announced in advance. All Playing Tests are graded using our standardized Performance Objectives. These tests could cover, but are not limited to covering, the following:
  - Daily Drill
  - Scales
  - Counting/Rhythm Exercises
  - Other Technical Exercises
  - Pep Band Tunes
  - All-Region Band audition materials
  - Band music (“your part”)
  - A Playing Test is simply for a performance grade but does not effect chair order.
  - Chair Tests are performance grades that rank the sections in order.
  - Pass-offs are a pass/fail standard for a performance grade to encourage students to learn and perform every detail of their music. Students will have multiple opportunities to meet pass-offs standards prior to each performance.
- B. **Written Work:** Since our curriculum is primarily performance-based, the amount of written work will be minimal. The type of written assignments they will encounter will deal mostly with furthering their knowledge of music theory and rhythm concepts.

C. **Public Performances:** As a band member you are a very important part of a much larger group. When we perform, your participation is vital. When members are absent, the entire band suffers. Attendance at all public performances is required. Listening to and supporting all the bands at Howard is part of performing. To receive full credit for the performance, students must attend the listening portion of the performance as well.

a. **Excused Absences**

There are some special circumstances under which we will excuse attendance at a public performance. Whatever the circumstance, we must be notified as soon as possible.

- Death in the family
- Critical family emergency (for example, a car accident)
- Bed-ridden illness (for example, pneumonia)
- Once-in-a-lifetime family event (for example, your grandparents' 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary)
  - In this case, parents must contact the director as soon as possible, in writing, stating (1) the student's name, (2) the date and time of the conflict, and (3) the specific reason for the conflict. This will allow us to plan ahead to cover the part or solo of the student missing. Please understand, just because a director is notified does not necessarily mean the absence will be excused.

b. **Unexcused Absences**

An unexcused absence from a public performance could result in any of the following, at the director's discretion:

- Loss of their chair position
- Exclusion from any band party.
- Exclusion from contest trips (Any student that misses a required concert or competition will not go to Schlitterbahn).
- Reassignment to another ensemble.
- Removal from the band program.

According to MISD policy, extracurricular performing groups may establish standards of behavior, including consequences, that are stricter than those for students in general.

**CONCERT ETTIQUITE**

In addition to teaching individual and ensemble performance techniques, we teach our students about proper concert etiquette. Parents, please help us encourage this. Students who are rude or disruptive will not receive full credit for the performance at the directors' discretion. Following the guidelines below will make concerts an enjoyable experience for everyone.

- Be on time. (To be early is to be on time. To be on time is to be late.)
- Make a restroom stop before the concert begins.
- Turn off all cell phones and pagers. Silent mode is not off. Texting during a performance is just as rude as talking. If your cell phone is out, it will be taken up.
- Be silent and stay seated while a band is performing. It is acceptable to enter or exit only in between pieces or ensembles.

- Remain in uniform before and after your performance portion of the concert.
- It is appropriate to applaud when the conductor enters the stage and after each piece has finished (the conductor will indicate when a piece is over).
- Clap when it is appropriate and clap appropriately.
- Yelling, whistling, and other overly enthusiastic noise-making, while appropriate at a rock concert, marching band contest, or even a jazz concert, is **not appropriate** for a Concert Band or Orchestral concert. If it is really outstanding, you should stand up and clap.
- Take all unhappy and crying young siblings out to the foyer until calm. This is a great courtesy to others and will help us make better recordings.

### ***STAGE ETTIQUITE***

As a performer, there are some specific things expected while on stage to perform correctly:

- Do not talk while anywhere on the stage (they can see you).
- It is inappropriate to acknowledge anyone in the audience at any time.
- While filing into your rows, remain standing until the director has your row sit.
- Adjust your setup (chair, stand, spacing) so it is exactly like our band hall at home.
- After each piece, remain sitting tall in ready position while you accept the audiences' applause. Reach for your music only after the applause has ended.
- Remain in ready position at all times unless the director says otherwise.
- When standing for applause, turn and face the audience holding your instrument and stand tall and still.

## **II. Rehearsal (40%)**

### ***REHEARSAL GRADES***

The average of daily rehearsal grades counts as 40% of each six weeks average. Every student will rehearse during every class unless he/she brings a note from a doctor describing a medical condition which would prevent his/her participation. If you are well enough to be at school then you are well enough to participate. After school rehearsals/Sectionals are Rehearsal Grades but are weighted twice given the rarity and importance of these rehearsals.

Students will receive full credit (100 points) for rehearsal when they:

1. Have their materials present and in working order for every rehearsal:
  - a. Instrument
  - b. Mouthpiece, several good reeds, or appropriate sticks/mallets
  - c. Band Binder w/ all music and organized
  - d. Pencil (no pens)
  - e. Tuner w/clip (for all Brass & Woodwinds)
2. Follow entry & exit procedures outlined in Rehearsal Expectations
3. Actively Participate in the rehearsal process by following the etiquette outlined below in Rehearsal Expectations. Lack of attentiveness, talking, or disruptions will adversely effect your rehearsal grade.

Failure to meet these requirements will result in the following daily deductions:

<b>Action</b>	<b>Consequence</b>
Non-Participation <i>No instrument, mouthpiece, good reeds, etc.</i>	Receive a zero for the day. Meet with director and call parents. <i>If your instrument is in the shop, you must provide a signed note.</i>
Insufficient Participation	Director's discretion
No Band Binder	Lose 50 points
Gum or food in class	Lose 50 points
No pencil	Lose 20 points
Poor Rehearsal Ettiquite	Lose 10 points per infraction

***Repeated lack of proper materials is also considered a discipline concern and will be addressed as such (parent contact, detention, referral, removal).***

### **REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS**

#### **A. At The Beginning of Rehearsal**

1. Enter the band hall quietly. You will be asked to exit and reenter if you are not quiet.
2. Deposit your backpack in the designated area (shelves in the entry). Backpacks, purses, or other bags are not allowed in the rehearsal space.
3. Spit out gum or anything in your mouth into the trash can by the music slots. No food or drink is allowed into the band hall.
4. Grab your band binder in one hand, music stand in the other hand (**1<sup>st</sup> Period only**), and take them to your assigned seat.
5. Get your instrument out of your locker. Only flute, oboe, and clarinet cases are allowed to be at your seat; all other cases must be put back in your locker until the end of class. Bring anything you might need to play out of your case: tuner & clip, valve oil, trombone water bottle, reeds, etc.
  - a. Percussion only: Set up your stand first, instrument next, then assist your sectionmates with instruments and stands, mallet sticks and music are gotten last. Setting up the percussion section is a team effort. Please have all implements you will need with you (keep your stick bag with you and do not share). When setting up percussion equipment, a maximum of 2 percussionists are allowed in the percussion room. All others remain at the door to distribute the equipment to setup positions.
6. Be seated, remain quiet and do not play until you are instructed to do so.
7. Organize your music according to the agenda posted on the whiteboard and get your pencil out.
8. All noise and movement should come to a halt after the tardy bell. Anyone not in their seat (or in front of their instrument for percussion) by the end of the tardy bell will be considered tardy for that rehearsal (please see tardy policy on page 13 for consequences).
9. Students will have exactly one minute past the bell to organize & adjust your stand, assemble your tuner and clip, and check your instrument so it is ready to play. Once we have taught a proper individual warmup, and we have learned to enter the room efficiently, then you may begin warming up on your own at this time.

10. Have everything you need to be successful during rehearsal with you at your seat when the tardy bell rings. You are not allowed to leave your seat or playing area during rehearsal without permission from a director. Percussion, this means you may not go into the percussion room or the entry hallway without permission.
11. Refrain from asking either director a question before rehearsal. We want to create independent thinkers and problem solvers so work to solve problems yourself non-verbally. This also keeps us free to monitor the entry procedures and prepare for the start of rehearsal. After rehearsal is the best time to address the directors with any concerns.

## **B. During Rehearsal (Etiquette)**

The quality of work that a performing ensemble achieves in its rehearsal is the single most important factor in the overall success of the group. Efficient rehearsals produce superior bands. Here are expectations for rehearsal that will contribute to efficient and effective learning:

1. Have a **POSITIVE ATTITUDE**. This will go a long way in helping the band reach its potential. Always enter the band hall with a purpose of accomplishing a musical goal. Leave other problems outside of the band hall and focus on the rehearsal at hand.
2. Have the **RIGHT EQUIPMENT**. This will make the rehearsal go smoother. Have a pencil on your music stand at all times. Marking music will help you remember important information about the piece being prepared. This will be beneficial to you in performance and home practice. Be prepared by having all equipment in proper working condition. This includes reeds, mouthpieces, tuning slides, water bottle, valve oil, etc.
3. Be **ON TIME**. Always give yourself enough time to get your instrument and music, put your case away, get to your seat and be in playing position. When in a rush, your focus and concentration are the first things that suffer. This is why the entry procedures are so important to our rehearsal success.
4. Always **CHECK THE BOARD** for daily announcements and the rehearsal agenda.
5. Establish and maintain correct **POSTURE** and **HAND POSITION**. Every band member should know the importance of good habits in posture and hand position. Be responsible for maintaining a high level of professionalism in playing your instrument.
6. **SELF-DISCIPLINE**. There is no such thing as group discipline. A disciplined group occurs when all the individuals in it are self-disciplined at the same time! Rehearsals run smoother when the classroom atmosphere is at a superior focus level. Students can make a big difference in the direction of a rehearsal by following these etiquette guidelines:
  - a. No talking during rehearsal. This includes talking about the music and talking to yourself (use your inner monologue!).
  - b. Eyes on the director throughout the rehearsal. Non-verbal communication can be just as distracting.
  - c. Pick up your pencil and be ready to mark your music every time we stop. Do not wait for the director to say, "Please mark that."
  - d. Raise your hand **HIGH and STRAIGHT UP** if you have a question. Speak up so that the entire ensemble can hear your question...chances are it will affect them as well.

- e. Be patient with others and listen to progress taking place.
  - f. Listen to other sections and the instruction occurring if your section is not the current focus. 99% of the time, you can apply what the other section is working on to your own playing or your music.
  - g. Always answer a question with a "yes or no sir" or "yes or no ma'am".
  - h. Concentrate. Be ready to move quickly and quietly between tasks.
7. **RESPECT.** When a large group of people work closely together on a daily basis, it is important to have respect for each other and the director in and out of rehearsal. Please be sensitive to the feelings of others in the group. Be polite and treat others as you would want to be treated. This is especially important during playing tests.

### **C. At The End of Rehearsal**

The director's responsibility is to give you at least 2 minutes at the end of each period to follow the below procedures. On the rare occasion that does not happen, we ask your help in moving as quickly as possible.

1. Instrument First: Woodwinds – swab out your instrument, disassemble carefully, and put it in its case in your locker. Do not rush as you could jam your swab or unknowingly bend a key when disassembling your instrument or closing your case.  
Brass – empty your instrument of water, disassemble carefully, and put it in its case in your locker.  
Percussion – replace any covers and put your instruments away in their designated areas. **Everyone helps with all instruments**, not just your own. Remember, only 2 people in the percussion room at a time.
2. Grab your band binder in one hand, music stand in the other hand, and put them away.
3. Take your backpack and leave the band hall in a respectful manner. The shelves are not your locker. Clean up any papers or kleenex from your area.
4. As you leave, any questions for the directors can be addressed then. This will allow us time to solve the problem and also make sure that you are not late to your next class.

## **III. Practice (20%)**

### ***PRACTICE EXPECTATIONS***

Success in the playing of a musical instrument is determined by the amount and quality of daily practice. Students are expected to practice daily outside of class and private lessons.

1. Practice records are put in student slots at the beginning of each week. These have the dates for the week to come and will have the student name, band, and music slot number on them.
2. Practice records must remain in the rear view window of each student's band binder.
3. Students should fill out the minutes and information each night they practice to keep the most accurate record possible. **DO NOT ROUND.**
4. Parents must review and sign it the night before it is due. Please take a minute to review it so that the proper time is being spent for your child to progress in their playing. Strive to not treat it as a simple "permission slip" to simply sign off on, but think of it as an English paper to review. **Practice**

**records without a full signature will not be accepted.**

5. Practice records are due on the first day of school every week (usually Monday), regardless of whether the student has band class that day.
6. Per district policy, practice records will be accepted one day late for a 30 point deduction. Practice records turned in thereafter will not be accepted unless the student was absent.
7. Some Practicing is excepted over the holiday breaks to ensure at least a maintenance of everything we've work on to date. But we also understand it is vacation time so minute requirements are cut in half for each band. So you will receive two practice records the week before a break, one for the current week (full credit) and one for the holiday week(s) (half credit).
8. In case of a lost practice record, there is a printable generic practice record on our website. Use of the online practice record must be limited to emergencies and must be dated correctly; **practice records with no dates will not be accepted.** The directors have the right to refuse the overuse of the online practice record, as every student receives a personalized practice record in their music slot every week.

**Practice Records are due the first day of the school week (Monday).  
If Monday is a school holiday, then it is due Tuesday.**

***PRACTICE GRADES***

The average of the weekly practice record grades counts as 20% of the six week average. Students are to turn in a Practice Record on the first day of each week to the appropriate box in the entry. We use a unique grading scale for each band. Grading is as follows:

<b><u>HONOR BAND</u></b>	<b><u>SYMPHONIC BAND</u></b>	<b><u>CONCERT BAND</u></b>
240+ minutes per week = 110	210+ minutes per week = 110	180+ minutes per week = 110
210-239 minutes = 100	180-209 minutes = 100	150-179 minutes = 100
180-209 minutes = 90	150-179 minutes = 90	120-149 minutes = 90
150-179 minutes = 80	120-149 minutes = 80	90-119 minutes = 80
120-149 minutes = 70	90-119 minutes = 70	60-89 minutes = 70
Less than 120 minutes = 60	Less than 90 minutes = 60	Less than 60 minutes = 60
No parent signature = 0	No parent signature = 0	No parent signature = 0

**IV. Extra Credit**

Students may receive extra credit for participating in activities that are not required in the above three categories. These activities include:

- Attending or participating in a non-Howard concert (15 pts.)
  - Includes marching band contests or DCI events
- Watching the HS band at half time (15 pts.)

Extra credit points are added in the Practice category at the end of each six weeks. **To receive extra credit, staple your ticket stub, program or note signed by a parent to a practice record that you turn in. Make sure your name is legible.** The extra credit will be applied at the end of the 6 weeks it was turned in.

# UIL ELIGIBILITY RULES

## (NO PASS/NO PLAY)

A student who receives, at the end of any six weeks grading period, a **grade below 70** in any class may not participate in **extracurricular** activities for at least three school weeks. Per MISD policy, **Pre-AP classes** require a grade below a 60 to become ineligible. Competitions (Solo & Ensemble, All-District, All-Region, Pre-UIL, UIL, Schlitterbahn) that have an entry fee or concerts that charge admission (such as the Percussion Concert) are activities that are considered extracurricular and therefore subject to UIL rules. UIL also considers performances at football games and pep rallies to also be extracurricular, and therefore ineligible students cannot attend.

However, an ineligible student may still practice or rehearse. Rehearsals, even outside of the school day, are considered **cocurricular and non-competitive**. **Concerts** (Fall, Winter, and Spring) are cocurricular and so ineligible students are required to attend as they are part of our stated curriculum and TEKS.

The student who becomes ineligible for competition, regains their eligibility after the seven calendar-day waiting period has ended following the three weeks progress report showing that the student has earned a passing grade (70 or above, 60 or above in Pre-AP) in **ALL** classes (not just the one they failed last six weeks). In other words, a student can only lose eligibility at the end of the each 6 weeks grading period, but can regain eligibility every 3 weeks progress report. Also understand that the loss of (or regaining of) eligibility always goes into effect after a one week waiting period from the end of the grading period in question. Semester averages and exams do NOT affect eligibility.

Unfortunately, there is no flexibility in the interpretation of UIL eligibility rules as it is a Texas state law. Your goal should be to take care of your homework and ask help from your teachers if you are experiencing difficulty within a class. This will enable you to not have to worry about the ins and outs of the UIL rules described above. To help, each of the end of 6 weeks dates are on our band calendar.

## CITIZENSHIP & CONSEQUENCES

We have seven basic guidelines to be observed at all times. To have efficient and productive rehearsals, it's important for you to always act your best.

- No classroom disruptions (i.e. getting out of seat, talking, passing notes, working on other class work, etc.). Anything that distracts others, including the director, may be considered a disruption.
- Respect others and their belongings (don't play others' instruments).
- No yelling, running, or horseplay.
- No food, drinks, gum or candy.
- Bring your instrument, music, band supplies and planner to every class. Only these things are allowed at your seat.
- Be in your seat ready to play when class starts.
- Pencil, pencil, pencil, pencil, pencil!!!

This code of conduct is in effect at all band activities on and off campus.

### **Daily Consequences**

If a student chooses to break the code of conduct during rehearsal, they will be issued a warning.

**One warning**—Self-correction, loss of 10 points from daily rehearsal grade (maximum grade: 90).

**Two warnings**—Self-correction, loss of additional 10 points from daily rehearsal grade (maximum grade: 80)

**Three warnings** – Detention and parent contact, loss of additional 10 points from daily rehearsal grade (maximum grade: 70)

**Four warnings** – Referral to assistant principal’s office, parent contact, and daily rehearsal grade of 0.

### **Repeat Offenders**

Students who receive an average of 2 warnings per rehearsal in a week will receive a detention and possibly a parent conference.

### **Tardy Policy**

Students are expected to be prompt to class and to be in their seat with all their supplies BEFORE THE TARDY BELL RINGS (please see Entry Procedures). Students who are not in their seat when the tardy bell rings will be counted tardy. We will generally give students up to a minute in their seats to finish “setting up” their space to be ready for rehearsal, but students must be in their seats when the tardy bell rings.

### **Citizenship Grades**

Citizenship grades each six weeks will be determined on the following basis:

- ◆E—Student has not received any warnings.
- ◆S—Student has received intermittent warnings but no detentions.
- ◆N—Student has received multiple warnings and at least one band detention.
- ◆U—Student has received an office referral.

## **SECTION REHEARSALS**

Attendance at every sectional is crucial for the individual and section’s progress. Therefore, an unexcused absence to a sectional will adversely affect your grade (weighted twice), jeopardize your chair in the ensemble, and leave you behind in the music and on playing tests we do in sectionals. Please try to schedule doctor or other appointments on days other than your sectional day as there is simply no way to make up the section rehearsal. The T.A. Howard Band and Athletics programs will work together to insure that any student may attend both. However, parents and student must help communicate unforeseen athletics conflicts in advance as much as possible.

**Morning sectionals** begin promptly at **7:15 am and end at 8:15 am**. All students attending *must* enter through the back band hall doors and enter between 7:00-7:15. Back doors and band hall doors will be locked at 7:15.

**Afternoon sectionals** begin promptly at 4:10. Students should come straight to the band hall from their last class and be ready to play by the 4:10 bell. If the sectional occurs on a bus duty day for the directors, the sectional will be delayed at least 10 minutes (4:20-5:20). Students affected

will be able to tell their parents ahead of time.

**See below for sectional requirements by band:**

Honor Band

All-Region Sectionals in the fall (required)

Ensemble Section in Nov-Dec

UIL Sectionals From Jan-Apr (required)

Symphonic Band

All-Region Sectionals in the fall (required for 8<sup>th</sup> graders, encouraged for 7<sup>th</sup> graders)

UIL Sectionals in the spring (required)

Concert Band

After School Full Band Rehearsals prior to performances (required)

**All-Region Sectionals**

As mentioned in the ensemble expectations, all Honor Band students and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Symphonic Band students are required to attend sectionals each week during the fall semester. All other band students are encouraged to attend these sectionals if they aspire to audition for All-District or All-Region auditions. The fall semester sectionals will cover the All-Region music and scales. Fall section rehearsals will begin the first Friday of school and end after November 13<sup>th</sup>. Our private lesson staff will teach these sectionals with the directors supervising. The specific daily schedule for these sectionals will be published during summer band.

**UIL Sectionals**

During the spring semester, all students in Honor and Symphonic Band are required to attend sectionals and any full band rehearsals in preparation for their UIL contest music. Spring section rehearsals will begin the Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup> and end after UIL on April 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>. The Honor Band will revise their sectional schedule after UIL to continue to work towards Honor Band recordings in May.

**After School Full Band Rehearsals**

Since the **Concert Band** meets during three different class periods, it is essential that the entire concert band rehearses together twice before each concert from 4:10 – 5:30. Any conflicts with athletics practices or games will be addressed ahead of time and worked out between the coaches and directors. Please see the band calendar for specific dates. Spring dates may be changed as we approach in order to avoid conflicts with athletics events.

Parents of Concert Band students, we have very few after school practices with Concert Band. Therefore every practice is crucial and any absence must fit our attendance policy to be "excused" if they miss. Also, please make sure they have a ride home promptly at 5:30 pm. If you know work or traffic will be a problem, please plan ahead for them to get a ride.

# **INSTRUMENT & MUSIC STORAGE**

Students will be assigned an instrument storage locker and music slot. Some students will have to share an instrument locker due to lack of large slots. Your instrument should never stay overnight in the band hall. Since the band hall is never left unlocked or unsupervised during the day, we do not use pad locks on our lockers for all the above reasons. It is imperative that both your instrument and music binder be clearly labeled with your name. When storing these items, please remember that only band students are welcome in the band hall. Do not bring non-band friends in or even through the band hall.

**ALL INSTRUMENT CASES AND MUSIC MUST BE CLEARLY LABELED WITH THE STUDENT'S NAME ON THE OUTSIDE WITH THE LUGGAGE TAG WE PROVIDE. School-owned instruments will have two tags.**

**We recommend that all instruments have some form of insurance coverage. Both School-owned when checked out, and personal instruments, are not insured by Howard Middle School or the Mansfield Independent School District. The Music Agency offers affordable instrument-specific insurance for just this purpose. Record all instrument make, model and serial numbers at home and with the directors for identification.**

## ***BEFORE SCHOOL***

- Proceed to the gym or cafeteria with your instrument.
- You may enter the band hall **only after the 8:37 bell rings**. Only those students involved in morning sectionals or private lessons may enter the band hall before this time.
- Put your music binder away in your assigned slot. You may only store your music here.
- Put your instrument away in your assigned locker. You may only store your instrument here.

## ***AFTER SCHOOL***

- You have until 4:10 to visit the band hall to pick up your instrument and music. Please be prompt. If you ride a bus, you may leave through the back doors.
- All instruments need to go home every day (except tuba and bari sax) even if you will not be in town for the weekend. This is a security measure.
- Please be courteous of meetings and private lessons that occur in the band hall after school.

# **INSTRUMENT REPAIR & MAINTENANCE**

You are expected to maintain your instrument in top playing condition. However, you and your parents are urged not to attempt repairs on your own. Before taking an instrument to a shop, have the director check to see if repairs are necessary. In many cases, Mr. Neugent or Ms. DeMaagd may be able to make the repairs. If it is decided that an instrument does need repairs from a professional shop, you have two choices: you may take it to a repair shop yourself, or you can send it in by way of the directors. Either way, you are responsible for the cost of the repair. The school-owned instrument fee is used for maintenance and repair at the end of the year. Also, note that a music store representative from Music & Arts & Forte Repair comes by the school each week. Instruments repaired through Forte are usually returned in 2-3 days!

# BAND BINDER SETUP

Band binders are provided to every band student as part of the registration fee in the fall. The binder comes with a set of eight dividers and a Howard Band pencil bag. Students are expected to keep their binders clean and organized all year. The binder should be set up as follows:

**Front View Pocket:** Howard Band personal cover page

**Inside Pocket:** Most Recent Handout to go home to parents

**In Binder Rings:**

- Table of Contents
- Band Calendar

**Behind Dividers:**

1. Daily Drill  
Teal book, Blue book
2. Rhythm Ex/Chorales
3. Pep Tunes
4. Band Music (Hon, Sym, or Con)
5. Handouts
6. Private L, Etudes, Solos
7. Handbook
8. Old Practice Records

**Back Pocket:** Nothing ☺

**Back View Pocket:** Current Practice Record

# LOCAL MUSIC STORES

**Music Arts Centers** (817) 466-8696

On the east side of the Arlington  
Highlands Shopping Center  
4000 Five Points Blvd. #129  
Arlington, TX  
www.musicarts.com

**Mr. E's Music** (817) 419-0353

North of Super Target  
1455 Arbrook  
Arlington, TX  
<http://www.mr-e-music.com>

**Forte Repair** (817) 929-7586

Forte Instrument Repair  
PO Box 1251  
Mansfield, TX 76063  
[www.forterepair.com](http://www.forterepair.com)  
[info@forterepair.com](mailto:info@forterepair.com)

**Rivard Brothers** (817) 459-2263

2425 W. Arkansas Ln.  
Arlington, TX

**Houghton Music** (817) 431-8072

1021 Conchos Circle West  
Keller, TX 76248  
[www.houghtonhorns.com](http://www.houghtonhorns.com)  
[houghton.horns@verizon.net](mailto:houghton.horns@verizon.net)

# STEP-UP INSTRUMENTS

Many students decide that band is more than just a hobby or elective and would like to advance their talent. One of the most significant changes you can make is the decision to purchase a step-up instrument. **Each year we have students that outgrow their beginner instruments and mouthpieces** (which are designed for small 6<sup>th</sup> graders). In most cases, students reach a point where their beginner instrument is actually holding back their progress as a musician. It is then time to consider purchasing a step-up instrument.

Directors make careful decisions when recommending step-up instrument models. We try to find the most accessible instrument to all students. When all students have the same step-up instrument model and mouthpiece, it is much easier to tune and match tone quality. It is also our intent to try to aid you in finding that final instrument purchase that will carry the student throughout their band experience while maintaining its resale value. We do recommend, if possible, keeping the beginning instrument for the high school marching band. *Never* take a professional model instrument out in the elements!

Prices vary everywhere you shop. It is a good idea to purchase a new instrument from a known, reputable dealer that offers purchase options, maintenance plans and warranties. Use caution when shopping through newspaper ads, pawn shops and the internet. In addition, some of the "super stores" have begun to carry instruments as well. These are typically low level beginner instruments that most repair shops cannot find parts for and will not repair.

The following recommendations are good choices for upgrades:

## Flute

1. Yamaha YFL 674H
2. Yamaha YFL 481H

## Alto Sax

1. Selmer Super Action 80
2. Yamaha 62II

## Clarinet

1. Buffet R13
2. Buffet Festival

## Trumpet

1. Bach Stradivarius 37
2. Yamaha Xeno

## Trombone

1. Eastman by Shires
2. Bach 42BO
3. Shires Pro Select PSAG47W (or PSAY47W)

Please note that some instruments will require a new mouthpiece purchase as well.

Please feel free to contact Mr. Neugent or Ms. DeMaagd for more assistance in this major decision. We will be holding a professional instrument drive this fall for your convenience. The date will be announced at a later date.

# HOWARD BAND SUPPLY LIST 2011-12

Total # of Items on Back Order	
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**\* ALL INSTRUMENTS \***

Has		Bought	On Order
	<b>Cherub Tuner/Met/Clip Combo</b> \$20.00		
	or Korg TM-40 Tuner/Met (no clip) \$30.00		
	and Tuner Clip PT-3 (No Tuner/Met) \$16.00		
	<b>Wire Music Stand (GOES HOME)</b> \$15.00		

\* Woodwinds and brass need to purchase EITHER the Cherub combo OR another brand tuner/metronome with clip.

\*\*Percussionists do not need the clip (just the metronome)

Has		Bought	On Order
<b>FLUTE</b>			
	Silk Flute Swab \$7.00		
	Tuning Rod \$4.00		
	Polishing Cloth \$3.00		

Has		Bought	On Order
<b>TENOR SAXOPHONE</b>			
	Selmer C* Mouthpiece \$160.00		
	Mouthpiece Cap \$4.00		
	Rovner Ligature w/cap \$20.00		
	Box of 5 Vandoren Reeds (3+) \$20.00		
	Reed Case (holds 4 reeds) \$5.00		
	Silk Saxophone Swab \$9.00		

Has		Bought	On Order
<b>EUPHONIUM</b>			
	Bach 6 1/2 AL Mouthpiece \$40.00		
	Schilke 51D Mouthpiece (stepup) \$55.00		
	Bell's Superlube Valve Oil \$5.00		
	Bell's Superlube Slide Grease \$5.00		
	Mouthpiece Brush \$3.00		
	Cleaning Snake \$6.00		
	Polishing Cloth \$3.00		

Has		Bought	On Order
<b>OBOE</b>			
	Singing Dog Reeds (3+) \$15.00		
	Reed Case (holds 8 reeds) \$16.00		
	Silk Oboe Swab \$7.00		
	Cork Grease \$2.00		
	Small Water Container \$9.00		

Has		Bought	On Order
<b>BARI SAXOPHONE</b>			
	Selmer C* or E Mouthpiece \$235.00		
	Mouthpiece Cap \$5.00		
	Rovner Ligature \$20.00		
	Box of 5 Vandoren Reeds (3+) \$32.00		
	Reed Case (holds 4 reeds) \$5.00		
	Silk Saxophone Swab \$9.00		

Has		Bought	On Order
<b>TUBA</b>			
	Bach 18 Mouthpiece \$67.00		
	Conn Helleberg Mouthpiece (stepup) \$60.00		
	Bell's Superlube Valve Oil \$5.00		
	Bell's Superlube Slide Grease \$5.00		
	Mouthpiece Brush \$3.00		
	Polishing Cloth \$3.00		

Has		Bought	On Order
<b>BASSOON</b>			
	Singing Dog Reeds (3+) \$12.00		
	Reed Case (holds 4 reeds) \$17.00		
	Silk Bassoon Swab \$8.00		
	Small Water Container \$9.00		
	Seat Strap - Fox \$18.00		

Has		Bought	On Order
<b>TRUMPET</b>			
	Bach 5C Mouthpiece \$42.00		
	Bach 3C Mouthpiece (stepup) \$42.00		
	Bell's Superlube Valve Oil \$5.00		
	Bell's Superlube Slide Grease \$5.00		
	Mouthpiece Brush \$3.00		
	Cleaning Snake \$6.00		
	Polishing Cloth \$3.00		

Has		Bought	On Order
<b>ALL PERCUSSION</b>			
	Stick Bag: Innovative SB-3 \$20.00		
	Snare Sticks: IP-LD \$13.00		
	Bells: IP OS-4 hard plastic mallets \$28.00		
	Marimba: IP 300 Med-Hard mallets \$33.00		
	Timpani: IP CT-4 Med-Hard \$32.00		
	Pitch Pipe for Timpani \$10.00		

Has		Bought	On Order
<b>CLARINET</b>			
	M13 Lyre Mouthpiece \$98.00		
	Mouthpiece Cap \$3.00		
	Rovner Ligature w/ Cap \$19.00		
	Box of 10 Vandoren Reeds (3+) \$22.00		
	Reed Case (holds 4 reeds) \$4.00		
	Silk Clarinet Swab \$10.00		
	Cork Grease \$2.00		

Has		Bought	On Order
<b>HORN</b>			
	Farkas MDC Mouthpiece \$37.00		
	Bell's Superlube Valve Oil \$5.00		
	Bell's Superlube Slide Grease \$5.00		
	Mouthpiece Brush \$3.00		
	Cleaning Snake \$6.00		
	Polishing Cloth \$3.00		

Has		Bought	On Order
<b>**Parts Assigned by Dr. Hart**</b>			
<b>MARCHING SNARE</b>			
	Innovative FS-PR2 \$9.00		
<b>MARCHING TENORS</b>			
	Innovative AT-1A \$25.00		

Has		Bought	On Order
<b>BASS CLARINET</b>			
	Selmer C* Mouthpiece \$190.00		
	Mouthpiece Cap \$6.00		
	Rovner Ligature w/cap \$25.00		
	Box of 5 Vandoren Reeds (3+) \$20.00		
	Reed Case (holds 4 reeds) \$4.00		
	Silk Swab \$13.00		
	Cork Grease \$2.00		

Has		Bought	On Order
<b>TROMBONE</b>			
	Bach 6 1/2 AL MP (small shank) \$40.00		
	Bach 5G MP (stepup, large shank) \$50.00		
	Trombotine Slide cream \$6.00		
	Small Spray Water Bottle \$3.00		
	Bell's Superlube Tuning Grease \$5.00		
	Mouthpiece Brush \$3.00		
	Cleaning Snake \$6.00		
	Polishing Cloth \$3.00		

Has		Bought	On Order
<b>MARCHING BASS DRUM</b>			
	Bass 1: Innovative IP FB-1 \$33.00		
	Bass 2: Innovative IP FB-2 \$33.00		
	Bass 3: Innovative IP FB-3 \$33.00		
	Bass 4: Innovative IP FB-4 \$33.00		
	Bass 5: Innovative IP FB-5 \$33.00		

Has		Bought	On Order
<b>ALTO SAXOPHONE</b>			
	Selmer C* Mouthpiece \$135.00		
	Vandoren Optimum MP (stepup) \$120.00		
	Mouthpiece Cap \$2.50		
	Rovner Ligature w/cap \$20.00		
	Box of 10 Vandoren Reeds (3+) \$28.00		
	Reed Case (holds 4 reeds) \$4.00		
	Silk Saxophone Swab \$9.00		

<b>Forte Total Cost</b>		\$
Ch #:	Amt. Paid	\$
<i>Balance</i>		\$

<b>Music &amp; Arts Total Cost</b>		\$
Ch #:	Amt. Paid	\$
<i>Balance</i>		\$

All prices listed above are Music and Arts prices except highlighted items...those are Forte Repair prices. Make check payable directly to Forte or M&A. Prices are if purchased at TA Howard. Retail prices in store may be higher.

**Please send to copier if a receipt is requested.**

**Items on backorder will be distributed in class once all balances (if any) are paid.**

# PERFORMANCE & TRIP PROCEDURES

Where applicable, students will ride the bus to events. The district policy is to take buses to all events outside of MISD (All-Region Auditions, UIL, etc). We will also take buses to group performances within MISD. Students must provide their own ride to individual competitions within MISD (All-District Auditions & Concert, Solo & Ensemble, etc.). Students and parents sign a transportation release form at Band Registration that covers all band events for the year.

The following are our **Howard Band Bus policies**. They are designed to ensure safe and efficient travel:

- To allow the adults and drivers to communicate, talking is not permitted when boarding the bus or while in parking lots.
- Talking is permitted while we are rolling but it must stay at an "inside voice" level (hence no singing or shouting).
- Students must get instantly quiet when an adult addresses them at any time on the trip.
- Sitting or lying down in the aisle is strictly prohibited! You must sit in a seat.
- All music must be played through headphones and not be audible by those next to you.
- Cell phone use is permitted only when we are rolling as long as an adult is not addressing the bus. If an adult addresses the bus, you must hang up immediately...you can call them right back.

Rules specific to our Schlitterbahn Trip:

- Students will sign up in advance for a bus seat on one of 4 buses (A, B, C, D). The directors will determine after you sign up the order of the buses traveling (1, 2, 3, 4) after sign-up is complete.
- Girls must sit next to girls and guys next to guys at all times. You may trade seats once we are rolling but must return to your assigned seats for attendance purposes when we stop or when we board to depart again.
- All movies played will be designated by the directors and will be PG or G since not all of our students are 13 or over.
- Student wishing to ride home with their parents and not on the bus must have a Transportation Release form sign and on file before the trip departure.

If parents wish to take their student with them after any event, you must use the following procedure:

- A. The directors must have a note before the event from the parents noting that the student will not be riding the bus back to Howard.
- B. The student and parent must check-out with a Howard director or trip chaperone before leaving. This is for the student's safety.

In all cases, the directors will publish an approximate ending time for each event. Your student's directors want to go home to their families and should not have to wait for parents to pick up their student from band events. **Please be courteous and be on time.** Do not depend on having your student call upon our return or when they are ready to go home. **The Mansfield ISD Police will be called in the case of a student left after a band event for an unreasonable amount of time.**

When parking in the back at Howard and waiting for our return, please do not park in the bus lane. It makes it difficult for our buses to park, students to disembark from the bus and also unload all our equipment. Parents should park on the sides of the building when waiting for our return.

## **BAND PERFORMANCE ATTIRE**

The visual impression we make at a performance is very important. It is imperative for all students to look and act their best. We have two looks: formal performance attire and casual performance attire.

### ***FORMAL PERFORMANCE ATTIRE***

- White tuxedo shirt (\$15) pre-ordered at Band Registration
- White undershirt
- Black dress pants (plain black; no pinstripes; no skirts)
- Black closed toe shoes
- Black socks or nylons
- Bowtie (provided by school and checked out at Registration)
- Cummerbund (provided by school and checked out at Registration)

We will pass out ties and cummerbunds at Registration this year. Each student will be responsible for bringing it with their uniform to performances. Replacement for lost or damaged ties/cummerbunds will be \$20.00. Students will remain in their formal concert uniform until the conclusion of the entire concert.

### ***CASUAL PERFORMANCE ATTIRE***

- Howard Band shirt, tucked in (\$12) ordered at Band Registration
- Blue jeans (not shorts [except for Summit Band Night in August])
- Athletic shoes with socks (no flip flops/sandals/Crocs)

Those students not dressed accordingly will be excluded from performing and receive the penalties for non-performance (this includes not going to Schlitterbahn).

Parents, we would also like to mention that you may purchase t-shirts for yourselves at Band Registration. It's always wonderful to see parents supporting us in this way. When we have an outing, it helps our students to find you when needed and at contests, it shows you for the superb band parents you are.

# EVENT DETAILS

Prior to each event we will give each student a handout detailing specific information. Please be on the lookout for these handouts about a week before every event. They will also be available on our website: [www.howardband.com](http://www.howardband.com). Below is a listing of our main events that happen each year.

## FALL CONCERT & DANCE/PARTY

Our Fall Concert and Dance will be on different dates due to the availability of the Willie Pigg. The concert will most likely be during the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of October and will feature mostly pep band music and a few Halloween tunes by each band. This concert, like all of our concerts, is a required event. The dance will be held in the Howard Cafeteria on Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. All band students are invited to join us for dancing, food, and costumes! The dance is optional but lots of fun ... and yes, the directors will have costumes!

## 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE FOOTBALL GAME

We will all perform in the stands at either Vernom Newsom or RL Anderson Stadium to see our Howard Knights face a district opponent during the month of October. We will provide transportation to and from the game, but parents are encouraged to come and enjoy the game as well!

## HIGH SCHOOL BAND NIGHTS

We will be joining their future high school band for a football game. This is a great opportunity for middle school students to get a taste of what high school band is really like. They will play with the band in the stands, socialize with band members, and then enjoy watching the halftime show! We will provide more information about this after the year starts. Being the main feeder school for Summit, we take the entire band to one Summit HS game. The few 8<sup>th</sup> grade students we have zoned to Legacy will also have the opportunity to the Legacy game with Worley & Jobe band kids as well. Dates will be published on our band calendar.

## ALL-DISTRICT BAND

Our students have the opportunity to audition for the MISD All-District Band on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. This audition is mandatory for Honor Band and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Symphonic Band members. Other band students who have attended the sectionals are encouraged for Symphonic Band members. Students who are accepted into the band will get to learn fun new music and play in a concert with other successful band students from Coble, Jobe, Jones, Wester, and Worley in January.

## ALL-REGION BAND

Our students also have the opportunity to audition for the TMEA Region 5 All-Region Band on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup> (Phase 1) and Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> (Phase 2 and non-Phased instruments). This is required for Honor Band students and encouraged for those others who have attended the sectionals. Students who are accepted into the band will get to learn fun new music and play in a concert with other successful band students from the Mansfield, Arlington, and Birdville on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Willie Pigg Auditorium. Being accepted into this ensemble is the

most prestigious individual award a middle school band student can achieve!

## **WINTER CONCERT**

Our Winter Concert will allow us to highlight each of the bands playing a bit more serious concert literature along with a few holiday favorites. This year the Winter Concert will be during the first or second week of December at the Willie Pigg.

## **SOLO/ENSEMBLE**

All students are required to perform a solo with live piano accompaniment at the MISD Solo/Ensemble contest held on the first Saturday of February. Directors and/or private lesson teachers will assist students in choosing a solo to play. Accompanist rehearsals will begin January 18<sup>th</sup> before, during, and after school for two weeks. We help setup accompanists for the kids and also setup rehearsal schedules for them. However, students may find and use their own accompanists. We need to know this by the first week of January. Students are encouraged to perform in a small ensemble as well.

## **PRE-UIL**

This event will give the bands a chance to practice for the UIL Concert/Sightreading Contest. Pre-UIL occurs the last week of March or the first week of April. We will provide transportation to the event, and parents will pick up their students afterwards.

## **UIL CONCERT/SIGHTREADING CONTEST**

UIL is the governing body for all interscholastic competition in the state of Texas. The music division hosts our Region Concert & Sightreading contest each spring. This contest serves as our yearly snapshot of the progress of our program and serves as fine art's closest analogy of assessment to the TAKS test. Each band will perform three contest selections and stage and then learn and perform a piece they have never seen before. **UIL is by far the most important performance of the year for each band participating.** This year's UIL contest occurs on April 19-2019-20 and we encourage all parents to attend. These will be the most refined performances of the year for our bands. We will provide transportation to and from.

## **SPRING TRIP**

We are taking a spring band trip again this year just as we have the last few years. For those of you that are new to the Howard Band program, we go to the Schlitterbahn Music Festival in May. Not only have we had a great time swimming and riding all the water rides, but we have also done very well at the music contest! Here are the trip participation guidelines for all students to begin working towards. All Howard Band students are eligible to go on this trip with the following exceptions:

1. Students who are absent from required band concerts or competitions during the course of the school year. (Don't forget, you must dress appropriately in order to perform and still be eligible for this trip.)
2. Students who are ineligible to play at UIL (this trip is their reward for a

successful UIL performance).

3. Students who are failing ANY classes at the end of the fifth six weeks. This is the state "no pass, no play" law.

4. Students who have made a "U" in conduct in band during the first, second, third, fourth or fifth six weeks or had consistent behavioral problems throughout the year.

5. Students who fail to meet the performance requirements on their particular instrument.

Our district will only pay for the contest entry fee. Therefore, we will be doing 2-3 fundraisers in order to try to help fund the trip. Hopefully our fundraising will help pay for a portion of the trip (entry fees to Schlitterbahn, two catered meals, and charter buses). Students and parents will have to pay whatever is left. So. . . *start saving now!* This is not an overnight trip but it is a very long, one-day trip. We will need many chaperones. It is a costly trip for our band unless everyone does his or her part on the fundraisers.

**The date for the Schlitterbahn trip is TENTATIVELY May 12<sup>th</sup>.** The date will be official when we publish our Spring Semester calendar.

## **SPRING CONCERT**

Our Spring Concert will be held at the Willie Pigg in May. Each band will play a combination of their UIL contest music and new pieces, and we will give out a few awards.

## **FUNDRAISERS**

MISD is very generous in supporting the band programs in our district. However, as in all quickly growing districts, it is simply not possible for the district to fund all of the enrichment activities that we feel are a vital part of your child's musical education. For this reason, the Howard Band participates in fundraising activities. Some activities supported by our fundraisers are registration fees and transportation costs for non-UIL events, the spring trip to New Braunfels, private lesson scholarships, clinicians, equipment and many other activities.

On average, the cost of each child participating in all band activities is approximately \$150-\$200 per year. In order for all our students to get the full band experience without being a financial burden, we ask that as many parents and students as possible participate in the band fundraiser. We do not maintain individual student accounts. All raised funds will benefit the band as a whole. We understand that not all parents wish for their children to participate in fundraisers and the Howard Band respects that decision. Please keep in mind, however, the cost of each child's participation in our program and support the band in any way you feel possible.

### **Fundraiser Dates**

#1 Cookie Dough & Candles: August 30 – September 13

#2 Valentine's Fundraiser: January 5-17

# TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL BAND PROGRAM

## ***Students:***

1. Always conduct yourself in a manner that brings credit to you, your family, your community, and your school. You should be a positive reflection of Howard Middle School.
2. Be loyal, honest, courteous and sportsmanlike in all dealings with your band directors, fellow band members, chaperones, academic teachers and the competition. Adult volunteers are available to assist you. They should receive your complete cooperation and respect. Always watch, listen and cooperate with adult and student leaders during band functions.
3. Be consistent and prompt to all rehearsals and be ready to put forth committed effort to accomplish excellence. Be at the right place, at the right time for all band activities with the right equipment, attire and attitude. "To be early is to be on time. To be on time is to be late. To be late is unacceptable."
4. Special care should be taken to see that all personal and school property is properly maintained. Place identification tags on all items. NEVER leave your instrument unattended. No one shall play, hold, or otherwise operate or handle another person's instrument.
5. Practice sufficiently to be prepared to rehearse and perform at the highest level according to your capabilities. Be prepared with all necessary materials every time you come to band.
6. The primary use of the band hall is for rehearsals. Never do anything that would interrupt a rehearsal. Practice rooms are for practicing only.
7. Only band students are allowed in the band hall.
8. Students are responsible for keeping their individual lockers clean and neat. Only instruments are allowed in the instrument cages. Everyone will assist with keeping the band hall clean and neat as well. Cleaning is everyone's responsibility!
9. Students are expected to practice daily outside of band class and private lessons.
10. **Students need to bring to their parents' attention all correspondence that is sent home. Any correspondence that requires a parent signature is to be returned to the band directors promptly.**

## ***Parents:***

1. Show an interest in your student's study of music.
2. Find a regular time and a quiet place for your student to practice.
3. Keep your student's instrument in proper working order. See that they have good reeds, valve oil, or other instrument supplies as needed. It is suggested that all personal instruments have some form of insurance coverage. Personal instruments are not insured by Howard Middle School or M.I.S.D. Record serial numbers for home records and identification. Independent insurance information is available from your student's director.
4. Help your student keep an accurate practice record each week and then sign it.
5. Help your student understand the importance of being prepared and on time for class.
6. Give the gift of private lessons to your student.
7. Keep a schedule of band activities in a prominent place to help avoid conflicts.
8. Ask your student to play for you. With regular practice, you should see a difference.
9. See that your student takes his/her instrument and music to school and home again.
10. Volunteer time for your student's band program. Parental involvement is a key to student success.
11. See that your student keeps up with all their academic studies and makes up work missed while absent.
12. Attend your student's performances.

# CONTACT INFORMATION

Communication is essential for the success of our band program. If you have a question or concern about the program, there are multiple ways to seek help. First of all, ask your student if they received any pertinent documents that they were supposed to pass on to you. The directors will periodically send out email updates as deadlines and events approach. Please make sure that we have your current email address. You can also check the Howard Band Website for information regarding upcoming events or to download lost forms, or contact the directors directly by either calling the band hall or through email.

**Howard Band Website** [www.howardband.com](http://www.howardband.com)

**Howard Band Hall** (817) 299-3526

**Nathaniel Neugent** NathanielNeugent@misdmail.org

**Meredith DeMaagd** MeredithDeMaagd@misdmail.org

If for any reason you need to get in touch with one of the other directors in our cluster, here are their school numbers:

**Summit High School** (817) 299-7470  
*Brad Bonebrake, Chris Kanicki, Shawn Hart*

**Legacy High School** (817) 299-1100  
*Glenn Fugett, Joshua Wilson*

**Cross Timbers Intermediate School** (817) 299-3578  
*Stephanie Bonebrake, Cathi McFaul*

# PRIVATE LESSON TEACHERS

As emphasized in our Ensemble Expectations, private lessons are a huge part of our program. With larger classes compared to 6<sup>th</sup> grade beginner band, private lessons give the students a consistent one-on-one experience with an approved professional on their specific instrument. The more they progress, lessons become more important to the growth of each individual, each band, and the entire program. We encourage every student to consider lessons even if they have not taken in the past. We also encourage you to communicate with the directors regarding any questions or concerns about lessons.

## **Flute**

Jennifer Hunter  
817-821-4651  
Ellen Kaner  
817-691-7198  
Nicole Neugent  
817-225-2543

## **Oboe**

Karen Victor  
817-559-1692

## **Bassoon**

Bret Newton  
940-736-5092

## **Clarinet**

Ellen Kaner  
817-467-5784  
William Hayter  
281-799-3830

## **Saxophone**

David Wade  
817-994-3394  
Kurt Shafer  
713-498-9500  
Mark Smith  
972-358-5518

## **Trumpet**

Minerva Davis  
817-456-0713  
Jeff Norman  
940-206-8259

## **Horn**

Brian Brown  
214-770-7190  
Josh Davis  
817-368-3833  
Janet Nye  
817-319-2244

## **Trombone**

Brian Conklin  
214-315-0382  
Sawyer Davis  
817-709-3538

## **Euphonium/Tuba**

Jon Wylie  
724-464-3430  
Sawyer Davis  
817-709-3538

## **Percussion**

Shawn Hart  
817-313-3605  
Cory Davis  
817-521-8034  
Blake Burch  
blakeburch@gmail.com

# FEE SUMMARY

Here is a list fees that you can expect throughout this year. The list is not all-inclusive and is only meant to give you an idea of what is coming.

## **REGISTRATION (check made out to Howard Band)**

- Registration Fee - \$15 (binder, dividers, pencil bag, labels, luggage tags, etc)
- Band T-Shirt - \$12 each
- Tux Shirt - \$15
- Instrument Usage Fee - \$60 for winds, \$20 for percussion
- Hawaiian Falls Party - \$12 each

## **EVENT FEES TO ANTICIPATE (paid as the event approaches)**

- All-Region Audition - \$7
- Live Piano Accompanist Fee - \$35 (unless you have your own)
  - Make check out to your accompanist
- Schlitterbahn Trip Cost - \$80-\$100
  - Final cost will be dependent upon fundraising and will be announced before Spring Break

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

- Lost Band Binder (includes blue book, dividers, and pencil bag) - \$15 for winds, \$18 for percussionists
- Lost Blue Book - \$7 for winds, \$10 for percussionists
- Lost Teal or Orange Book - \$7
- Lost Sheet Music (per page): \$0.25
  - Pay with cash
- Lost Bow Tie - \$58
- Lost Cummerbund - \$812
- Private Lesson (per half-hour lesson): \$16
  - Make checks out to your private teacher

# HANDBOOK POLICIES & PROCEDURES FORM

We have received a copy of the 2011-2012 Howard Band Handbook. We have read, understand, and will comply with the policies and procedures outlined therein.

Parent:

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student:

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_